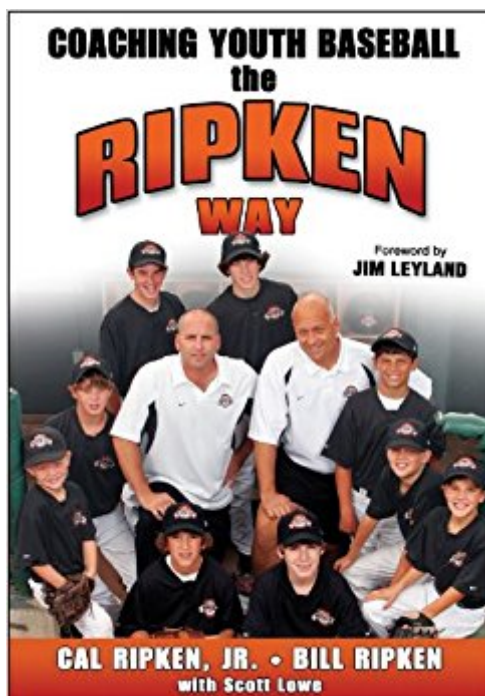


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# Coaching Youth Baseball The Ripken Way



## Synopsis

Coaching young players, developing their skills, and cultivating a love for the sport may be the most rewarding experience baseball can offer. Cal and Bill Ripken understand this like few others. From their father, Cal Sr., a legend in the Baltimore Orioles organization for 37 years, they learned to play the game the right way. Those lessons, paired with their combined 33 years of big league experience, helped develop the Ripken Way, a method of teaching the game through simple instruction, solid explanations, encouragement, and a positive atmosphere. In *Coaching Youth Baseball the Ripken Way*, Cal and Bill share this approach to coaching and development. Whether you're teaching your children at home, managing the local travel team, or working with high school-level players, *Coaching Youth Baseball the Ripken Way* will help you make a difference both on and off the field, with these features:

- More than 50 drills covering defense, hitting, pitching, and baserunning
- Age-specific practice plans for players ranging from 4 to 15+
- Strategies for setting goals and reasonable expectations for your players and team
- Advice on communicating with parents, players, and staff
- Methods for creating a positive and fun environment in which kids can learn the skills and strategies of the game

Bill Ripken was once voted by his peers as one of the big league players most likely to become a manager. Cal Ripken, Jr., known as baseball's Iron Man, is a member of the game's All-Century Team and a future Hall of Famer. Together, they are proof positive that the Ripken Way is the right way to teach the game of baseball.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cal Ripken, Jr., is baseball's all-time Iron Man. He retired from baseball in October 2001

after 21 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles. His name appears in the record books repeatedly, most notably as one of only eight players in history to record more than 400 home runs and 3,000 hits. In 1995, Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played (2,130) and voluntarily ended his streak in 1998 after playing in a world-record 2,632 consecutive games. Among his other on-field accolades are American League Rookie of the Year (1982), two-time American League Most Valuable Player (1983, 1991), two-time Gold Glove recipient (1991, 1992), two-time All-Star Game MVP (1991, 2001), and 19 All-Star Game selections. He also was named to Major League Baseball's All-Century Team in 1999. Ripken has made a tremendous impact on the sport and on fans everywhere. In 1999, Babe Ruth League, Inc., changed the name of its largest division (5- to 12-year-olds) from Bambino to Cal Ripken Baseball. Currently, more than 700,000 youths play Cal Ripken Baseball worldwide. He is using the platform that baseball has provided him to construct a baseball complex in his hometown of Aberdeen, Maryland. The one-of-a-kind facility consists of Ripken Stadium, a state-of-the-art 6,000-seat minor league ballpark that is home to the hugely successful Class A Aberdeen IronBirds. Adjacent to the minor league ballpark is the Ripken Youth Baseball Academy, consisting of eight youth fields, including a youth-sized replica of Oriole Park at Camden Yards, a synthetic training infield, a bullpen area, and batting cages. Ripken resides in Maryland with his wife, Kelly, and their children, Rachel and Ryan. Bill Ripken, a 12-year Major League veteran, began his career with the Baltimore Orioles in 1987 under the direction of his father, Cal Ripken, Sr., and alongside brother Cal Ripken, Jr. This was the first and remains the only time in Major League Baseball history that a father simultaneously managed two of his sons. After five and a half seasons with the Orioles, Ripken, who would later return to Baltimore for a year, played for Texas, Cleveland, and Detroit. In 1988, he was second among American League second basemen in double plays turned (100). At the plate, Ripken led the Baltimore Orioles in hitting with a .291 average and 28 doubles in 1990. Ripken, a second baseman by trade, had a fielding percentage of .9927 in 1992, the best of any Major League second baseman that season, and his career fielding percentage at second base (.987) ranks among baseball's all-time leaders. Ripken was voted by his peers as one of the players most likely to manage a big league team. Ripken is the co-owner and executive vice president of Ripken Baseball Inc., a baseball sales and marketing company founded in 1999 and based in Baltimore. Ripken is involved in all aspects of the business and regularly instructs at youth camps and coaching clinics. Through his work with these programs, he has become recognized as one of America's premiere baseball instructors. Ripken also is involved in the continued development of the Ripken Academy in Aberdeen, Maryland, and the management of Ripken

Baseball's minor league teams in Aberdeen and Augusta, Georgia. Ripken lives in Fallston, Maryland, with his wife, Candace, and his children, Miranda, Anna, Reese, and Jack. Scott Lowe joined Ripken Baseball in 1999 after eight years working in college sports publicity. Lowe initially served as the general manager of the company's camps and clinics division, developing Ripken Baseball's youth camps, coaching clinics, and other instructional programs. Presently he writes and designs Ripken Baseball's Coach's Clipboard e-newsletter, which is distributed to amateur baseball coaches around the world on a monthly basis. He also oversees the creation and distribution of Ripken Baseball instructional products and is involved in the development and implementation of the company's coaching education and other baseball instructional programs. After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Maryland College of Journalism in 1991, Lowe spent two years as an athletic communications assistant at Princeton University. He was the assistant director of sports information and served as the athletics marketing coordinator at Drexel University in Philadelphia from 1993 to 1995 before returning to the Baltimore area to become the assistant director of athletic communications at Loyola College. Lowe served in that capacity before being promoted to the position of head sports information director in 1997. Lowe left Loyola in 1998 to form his own baseball camp business prior to joining Ripken Baseball in September 1999. In addition to his full-time position at Ripken Baseball, he has served for three years as the head coach of varsity baseball at the Park School in Baltimore, compiling a 45-19 record and leading the Bruins to three consecutive MIAA B Conference playoff appearances, including a trip to the 2006 championship game, after the school had failed to reach the postseason the previous seven years. Lowe resides in Owings Mills, Maryland, with his wife, Robin, and children, Devin and Sydney.

Very well written book on coaching baseball for all ages. I read this book to get more informed on how to coach 5-6 year old T-Ball. This book provided a very good framework for this age group. Many well timed photographs used to describe practice drills.

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Favorite parts of the book:

Page 6 As coaches, we need to be able to cater to the needs of the kid who can't catch one ball and still make baseball fun and exciting for the kid who can. It's a difficult balance but one that's important to understand at all levels.

I have coached baseball from tee ball to high school varsity, and this book is by far the most comprehensive, easy-to-read, practical book on coaching baseball that I have seen. The drills and organization tools make practice planning simple. The Ripken Way emphasizes FUN and keeping kids engaged in a game that requires a lot of patience and attention. The drills are broken down by age-appropriateness in a way that makes this book useful for coaches of all levels.

Good quick read and decent reference. Somewhat repetitive in the content. Drills are good. Would like a better detail which helps you as a coach set up practice plans (how long does each drill take, as an example).

We think anyone who coaches young baseball players should read and use this book. One of Cal and Bill Ripken's biggest goals is to get young players to LOVE THE GAME and have fun! We originally picked this book because it is written by the Ripkens (and we think Cal Ripken is one of the best ballplayers of all time!) The book is not just a list of drills but they also take time to discuss coaching responsibilities and philosophies and reasonable expectations. They include great ideas for practices and how to run games at the younger levels - we wish this book was required reading for ALL volunteer youth baseball coaches. Drills included are several for Hitting and Baserunning, Throwing and Pitching, and Fielding. The best part of the book is the Practice Planner, where they go over Practice Particulars for each age group (4-6, 7-9, 10-12, etc.) They also tell you what skills you should be teaching kids at what age level. I was amazed at the "basics" that my 8 year old son hasn't learned yet. The Ripkens want kids to learn and have fun doing it so they love the game. We found ourselves agreeing with everything the Ripkens had to say and we will be using the rest of the spring/summer to "backyard coach" our 5 year old, 8 year old and 10 year old daughter now that baseball is over for the year - keeping it fun, of course! We would love for our children to go to one of the Ripkens' baseball camps, but this book will have to suffice.

If you are looking for a way to ensure you are teaching the correct skills and at the same time making baseball practice lively, this is the book. The Ripkens are, obviously, well qualified to talk about baseball, but I was surprised at the wisdom, perspective, and pace of the book. First things, as they say, first. This is not a book that you get if you want to be a crazy baseball dad or mom -- this is the book you get if you want to be able to teach and explain the workings of baseball in an interesting way. Can't recommend this book highly enough. I was in something of a rush and bought

this book on the Kindle (which I love). Since it is a reference work, however, in retrospect the hard copy might have made more sense. I do a lot of flipping back and forth in the kindle, and bookmarks are okay, but right yet I don't think the Kindle software is nearly as efficient. Still, no gripes or regrets about this purchase -- I might just have to buy the hard copy as well.

I bought this book because I was asked to coach my step-sons youth rec league baseball team. From the onset, the Ripken brothers laid strong foundation for developing a love of the game in youngsters. Having only played the game in little league (sat the bench), it instilled confidence in my ability to teach the basic fundamentals of the game. It also provided me with the tools to instill the love of the game in others. From the mental aspect to the physical aspect the Ripkens have written a book that is a must read. The book includes details of all the necessities for coaching youth baseball. From practice plans, times, and instructional drills, this book will give you a great start. Additionally each section give the reader pointers as to what to look for when doing each drill. The book takes the inexperienced and allows them the ability to enjoy coaching, to see baseball in a new light and to a reignite a passion for the games of baseball.

Great handbook with some great ideas for stations.

Great book for \$2!

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